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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 36

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## FOOD FOR EUROPE

United States making available to European countries and French North Africa nearly 4 million tons of food in last quarter 1945, plus 3/4 million ton to Britain, and 1 1/2 million to other destinations. Estimated shipments abroad include 384,000 tons of dairy products, 506,000 tons of meat, 27,000 tons poultry and eggs, 89,000 tons beans and peas, 102,000 tons edible fats and oils, including butter, 50,000 tons of sugar, 3,258,000 tons wheat and flour, 179,000 tons rice, 585,000 tons other grains, 53,000 tons canned fish, 298,000 tons potatoes and 443,000 tons fruits and vegetables.

## GOVERNMENT INVENTORY

Inventory of commodities owned by Department of Agriculture (CCC) September 30, 1945, included 4,056,501 bales of Upland cotton, 141 million bushels wheat, 19.8 million bushels corn, 27.3 million pounds hay and pasture seed, 110.7 million pounds flue-cured tobacco, 413.8 million pounds (grease) wool and 25.8 million pounds scoured wool, 17.5 million pounds vegetable oils, 6.2 million pounds potatoes, 25 million pounds dry beans, 39 million pounds seeds and grains, 458 million pounds flour, grits and meal, 110 million pounds dry peas, 17 million pounds soup, 16 million pounds field seeds.

## MORE YOUNG PULLETS ON HAND

October egg production 3,140 million eggs, 5 percent less than October last year but 43 percent above average for the month. Egg production during first 10 months this year 49 billion eggs, 5 percent under same period last year but 36 percent above average, falling off this year due to decreased number of layers.

Number of laying hens during October 357 million, 5 percent under October last year but 22 percent above 10-year October average. Layers were fewer this year in all parts of the country. Potential layers on hand November 1 (all hens and pullets plus young pullets) 543 million birds, 3 percent more than on hand year previous and 12 percent above average that date. This figure included 169 million pullets not of laying age, 23 percent over last year and 10 percent above 5-year

average.

## SLIGHTLY LESS MILK AHEAD

October milk production estimated 9.2 billion pounds, record high for the month, though only 2 percent above October last year. Seasonal decline this fall has been greater than average, however; production per capita for October was slightly less than same month of 1941 or 1942. In first 10 months of 1945, milk production totaled over 106 billion pounds. Year's total seems likely to reach about 123 billion pounds. Milk production per cow sustained this fall by open pasture, mild weather and heavy feeding but in last two months production has dropped faster than usual. Large markets now facing milk shortages.

Next year military buying of dairy products will be greatly reduced. Exports also will be reduced. On the other hand, milk production is likely to be 1 to 3 percent smaller in 1946 than in 1945. Number cows this summer was 2 percent below previous summer. Number heifer calves at the beginning of 1945 was 23.7 per 100 cows compared with 25.5 per 100 cows year previous. In other words, fewer cows ahead. Also milk production per cow (about 4800 pounds this year or 5 percent above 1944) is 2 percent above the previous 1942 record and may decline somewhat next year. Number of milk cows on farms October 1 estimated 25.7 million compared with 26 million in 1944 and 1936-40 average of 23.5 million.

Total supply of butter in 1945 indicated 1,764 million pounds, compared with 1,841 million last year, with 2,313 million in 1941 and with 2,243 million, the average for 1935-39. The prospect is for moderately larger supply of butter in 1946.

## AMPLE FEED SUPPLY

Production of four principal feed grains -- corn, oats, barley, and sorghum grain -- indicated 121 million tons, slightly above 1944. Total supplies, including stocks, 160 million tons, compared with 161.5 million last year. Number of grain-consuming animal units January 1 was 147 million, same as year previous. Supply of all grain concentrates per animal unit

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	SEPT. 15 1945	OCT. 15 1945	OCT. 15 1945
Wheat, bu. . . . . dol.	1.45	1.51	1.55
Corn, bu. . . . . dol.	1.12	1.13	1.12
Oats, bu. . . . . dol.	.58	.63	.698
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	21.72	22.30	21.70
Potatoes, bu. . . . . dol.	1.38	1.26	1.28
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	14.10	14.10	12.70
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.00	11.40	9.48
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.40	13.40	11.80
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	12.40	12.60	10.30
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	50.3	50.2	47.5
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.20	3.28	2.99
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	27.5	24.3	20.
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	39.6	42.6	43.6

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.



1.09 tons this year compared with 1.10 tons last year and .97 tons in 1943. The grain supply is larger than average.

Total supply of hay for 1945-46 season largest in nearly 20 years, totals 116.4 million tons, including crop and carry-over. This is almost up to the record supply in 1942-43 of 116.6 million tons. The hay supply per animal unit is as large as in any year since 1927, although quality in some eastern areas is below standard.

#### SHORT SUPPLY OF FATS AND OILS

Output of fats and oil from domestic materials in 1945 estimated about 9.5 billion pounds or 1.3 billion less than last year. Exports of fats and oils to our Allies were large in first half of 1945 but are now down sharply; net exports from United States in 1945 likely to total about 300 million pounds, compared with 650 million pounds exported in 1944 and in 1943. In 1937-41 period United States had average net import balance of 1,500 million pounds, chiefly soap fats, drying oils, olive oil and fish liver oils. Total production next year may increase slightly -- more butter, lard, linseed oil and soybean oil but cottonseed oil output will be smaller. Inventories of fats and oils at beginning of 1946 will be materially smaller than year previous. Factory and warehouse stocks August 1, latest report, total 1,751 million pounds or 885 million below year previous.

#### SLIGHTLY MORE FARM HELP - WAGES HIGH

Farm labor supply November 1 showed 60,000 increase over year previous -- first such increase since September 1943. Number of farm workers November 1 estimated 10,747,000, largest for the date since 1942. Number of hired workers 2,569,000 compared with 2,522,000 year ago. Number of family workers 8,178,000 compared with 8,168,000 year previous. Wages are high, wage rates for picking 100 pounds of seed cotton average \$1.93, about like year ago but more than three times the pre-war average. Combine rates for harvesting wheat averaged \$3.65 an acre this summer compared with \$1.90 back in 1938. Some sample wages paid this year: Cranberry pickers (scoop method) \$1.01 a bushel up to \$1.17 a bushel in New Jersey; onion harvesters 66 cents an hour and \$5.25 a day in Michigan; peach pickers 73 cents an hour in Michigan; hop pickers in Oregon 95 cents an hour and \$7.05 a day.

Number of foreign workers on farms November 1: Mexicans 44,897, Jamaicans 11,499, Bahamians 4,248, Newfoundlanders 932, Prisoners of War 115,369. Total foreign workers, including a few Canadians, 177,098.

#### FARM INCOME

Total income received by farmers for products sold during September \$1,985 million compared with \$2,007 million year previous. These figures include \$16 million of Government payments this September compared with \$53 million year previous. Total farm income January-September \$14,909 million compared with \$14,575 million in like period last year. Figures include \$605 million Government payments this year compared with \$659 million last year.

#### THE MINOR CROPS

Soybean crop 191 million bushels, according to November 1 estimate. Would be third largest of record, only 1 percent below crop of last year and 1943.

November 1 forecast peanut crop for picking and threshing 2.174 million pounds, compared with 10-year average (1934-43 of 1,478 million pounds). Forecast lowered 86 million pounds during October, due largely to rains and disappointing yields.

Dry bean crop slightly over 14 million bags of 100 pounds each, uncleaned. Bean crop about 12 percent below 1944. Indicated crop after cleaning about 12 1/2 million bags; would be smallest output since 1936 and only about 2/3 of 1941-43 average.

Sugar beet crop estimate 9,155,000 tons, crop about 36 percent larger than in 1944 but 5 percent below 10-year average. Assuming a sugar content about like last year total production of refined beet sugar in 1945 would be approximately 1,330,000 tons, compared with 985,000 tons beet sugar last year and 10-year average of 1,407,000 tons.

Sugar cane for sugar and seed estimated 7,176,000 tons, compared with 6,148,000 tons last year, and average of 5,640,000 tons.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	OCT. 1945
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	199
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	175
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	114
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	164
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	183
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	355
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	1376
RATIOS	LONG-TIME OCT. - - AVERAGE	OCT. 1945
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.8	12.5
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	26.1	29.6
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.35	1.46
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	15.2	14.4
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-SEPT. 1944	JAN.-SEPT. 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	92.9	97.2
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	48.2	45.7
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	4,865	5,308
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	635	669
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . . .	9,985	5,784
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	16,086	12,296
<sup>1</sup> Aug. figure.		
<sup>2</sup> Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation.		